

The VVFC News Alert
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October 2003

Influenza Vaccine

Administration and supply



The Influenza vaccine for the 2003-04 season is supplied in two formulations; preservative-free and preservative-containing. It is

VVFC policy to administer preservative-free Influenza vaccine to eligible children 6 months to 35 months of age and preservative-containing Influenza vaccine to eligible children 36 months to 18 years of age. Please note, the preservative-free Influenza vaccine contains a trace amount of thimerosal from the manufacturing process.

Influenza vaccine orders were due by October 2, 2003, and these orders have been shipped in full. Orders submitted on October 2, 2003, or after will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. You may continue to place Influenza vaccine orders until VVFC stock has been depleted.

If your facility's stock of preservative-free Influenza vaccine has been exhausted, and VVFC stock is not sufficient to fill additional preservative-free Influenza vaccine orders, you may administer preservative-containing Influenza vaccine to eligible children 6 months to 35 months of age. ***All Influenza vaccine orders are limited based on patient enrollment and vaccine availability.***



On August 11, 2003, CDC determined that vaccine production for the 2003-2004 influenza season is proceeding satisfactorily and that projected production and distribution schedules will allow for sufficient supply of influenza vaccine during October and November.

Therefore, influenza vaccination can proceed for all eligible children, following VVFC guidelines, individually and through mass campaigns, as soon as vaccine is available. Additional information about influenza and influenza vaccination is available from CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/flu/default.htm>



VVFC Awards

Outstanding VVFC Compliance

Wee Care Pediatrics, Fredericksburg
Exceptional Immunization Rates
Associates in Pediatric Care, Hampton
(Immunization rates exceed 90% using CASA software)

QUESTIONS? CALL THE VVFC OFFICE AT 1-800-568-1929

OR EMAIL US AT VVFC@VDH.STATE.VA.US

Thanksgiving Shipping schedule

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, we will not be shipping vaccine on November 24th.

Orders received by 4 PM November 13th will be shipped November 17th as scheduled. Any order received between 4 PM November 13th and 4 PM

November 26th will not be shipped until December 1st. Orders received after 4 PM, November 26th, will be shipped on December 8th. The winter shipping schedule will be in the December Backpage.



Email News Alerts

In between newsletters, news is still happening, so we created a VVFC email group. Emails are only sent when news is urgent, such as the office closings due to hurricane Isabel. If you would like to be added to our list, please email VVFC@vdh.state.va.us with your email address and PIN number. You can also email us with any questions you may have about the VVFC program or about immunizations.

The Big Move?



The Division of Immunization and the VVFC office are moving to a new location! We will have a new address and new local phone numbers. At this time, the move includes transferring toll-free numbers to the new location and is scheduled to occur over Thanksgiving; however, this may change. More information will follow this newsletter as it becomes available, maybe by email!

Immunization Updates: Did you Know?

- Pevnar production and delivery is now adequate to permit a return to the routine vaccination schedule.
- Pediarix may be given to children who are greater than 6 weeks old and less than 7 years old.
- You may be able to get a refund for unused, private stock, Menomune. Call Aventis at 1-800-VACCINE.

